

with which Mr. Thomas threatens the followers of the old masters; but it is in a great measure because I would, if possible, glean from each those qualities and those alone in which they were decidedly pre-eminent, that I trust those who follow this advice may be free from that narrow spirit which all exclusiveness engenders.

I admit fully that among many of our connoisseurs there is a narrow and uninquiring spirit, which seeks for the works of ancient schools on account of their reputation rather than their real merit, but I would also urge that there is in the modern school a lamentable ignorance of the scientific principles and practice of former times, and a straining after originality without either the knowledge or the feeling to stamp their productions with the seal of genius. To select examples of this would be invidious; but I must, in passing, justify my former remark on Edwin Landseer. He is an animal painter; it is, therefore, no reproach to him to paint "the dog," but rather his highest glory to invest that noble beast with the spirit which truly fits him to be the companion of man—almost "admitted," to use the words of the poet, "to an equal sky." My reproach to that eminent artist was, that in obedience to the taste of wealthy patrons (not, I am sure, to his own) he had sometimes deviated from that high tone always observable in his earlier works, and made "the dog" no longer the faithful friend, but the uninteresting, or idle plaything.

To conclude: I am not so sanguine as Mr. Thomas of our surpassing the ancients. We may be greater than they were in our own way; they will probably remain greater than us in their own. Our grand difficulty is, that we live in an age when civilization and refinement have been so far extended, that we no longer produce the same vigour in individuals, though the masses are daily advancing in knowledge, and in all the constituents of true power. The world is no longer in its youth—the age of poetry has gone by. Accurate descriptive writing has succeeded the natural vigour of thought to be found in our ancestors. A knowledge of details has superseded the grasp of first principles. We do not live in an age of great men. Not that I would deny the unspeakable blessings with which we are surrounded, but we have inherited from our ancestors a store-house of treasures, to which, in many respects, it is impossible to add. The edifice has been planned by them—nay, built,—ours is the lighter labour of adding the graceful ornament, or finishing the glittering pinnacle. We find modern students daily adding to the treasures and to the beauty of our dwelling place. A Herschel, an Owen, an Airey, and many, many more, are amongst us, to prove the vitality of our body-politic, and the incessant activity of thought and action, which is the very inspring and soul of modern society. But they have entered into the labours of a Newton, a Cuvier, or a Halley. So it is in the arts. We are in the "latter days," when caution and prudence have succeeded to vigour and masculine energy. It is, perhaps, by not attempting too much that we are likely to succeed best; by patient observation, diligent research, and by each selecting that particular branch in which he is best able to excel, and adhering to that; lastly, by inculcating, in all classes of the people, a love of what is beautiful for its own sake, and by placing before them the best examples of the best times. He is a fortunate man, who, as a mere connoisseur, loves "art" for its own sake; but he is even more so who cannot merely do this, but who can look upon art as the hand-maid of religion, of history, and of science, and can perceive in her works both the faithful exposition of past ages, and the means of instructing future generations in the history of their kind, and the mysterious beauties of the works of God.

AN ANATEM.

P.S. Since writing the above, I have seen Mr. Cave Thomas's last letter, but am not aware that it calls for any special remark.

THE ARCHITECTURAL PUBLICATION SOCIETY is making satisfactory progress. There are now 305 subscribers, and local secretaries have been appointed in various places, including two in Arabia and one in Jamaica!

#### DECORATION OF THE ORIENTAL CLUB, HANOVER-SQUARE, LONDON.

MR. LEONARD COLLMANN, of whose works as a decorator at St. Robert Peel's and elsewhere we have had occasion to speak before this, has just now completed the decoration of the drawing-room and two libraries of the Oriental Club.

The club intending to spend a only limited sum of money on the repainting and embellishing of these rooms, a style of decoration has been adopted, in which, by simple means, and without the aid of superior artistic talent in the execution, considerable effect can be produced; moreover, it is one very suitable for public buildings, and more particularly so in this instance, the architecture being in style Greek-ish, if not Greek. That is, the ornament is all painted perfectly flat, and mosaic-like. The effect produced solely relying on the merits of the general design, and on the arrangement of colour, the execution requires no more than great nicety in the workmen. The general design and the ornamental details are of a strictly architectural character, and the only painting in light and shade introduced is in two figures, Europe and Asia, in the niches of the drawing-room. Strong colours were chosen for the walls, in order to add to the rooms a degree of comfort and richness which lighter colours could not have produced, and which was the more desirable, as curtains to the windows are entirely dispensed with. The general tone of the drawing-room is red, and that of the libraries green. Some full-length portraits, formerly in large and clumsy gilt frames, projecting nearly a foot, have been fixed to the walls, and enclosed with suitable gold panel mouldings, so that they now form as it were a part of the room, and do not obtrude by any overpowering quantity of gold. The door and window architraves, as also the dados, are painted in imitation of marbles (and exceedingly well done), and the doors and shutters in imitation of woods, suiting the arrangement of colour in the various rooms. The result of the whole is very satisfactory.

#### PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING AN ARCHITECTS', ENGINEERS', AND ARTISTS' CLUB.

We have received the following proposal for the establishment of a club for architects, engineers, and artists, and willingly give it place, with the view of eliciting the opinion of the professions upon it. Letters addressed to us on the subject shall be seen by the projectors of the association.

At the present day, when the utility and attractions of clubs are so universally admitted, it is a subject of surprise that so large and important a body as the architects, engineers, and artists generally, can boast of no institution of that nature.

Whilst nearly every other body of men, every other vocation and calling, from the Church to the Stock Exchange, have their respective places of re-union, those who contribute so largely to the fame and honour of our country are unrepresented and disinited. It were greatly to be desired for the interests of those professions, and for the equally important purpose of promoting a spirit of good fellowship and unanimity amongst the members, that some institution could be created, possessing not only the recommendation of acting as a social nucleus for those members resident in the metropolis, but of serving also as a home to those who reside in the country, and who, when summoned to London by business or other causes, are in the generality of instances subjected to the comparative discomforts and expense of hotels and lodging-houses. In the full assurance, therefore, that the want of such an institution as is now contemplated, must be sensibly felt by nearly every individual connected with the profession of engineers, architects, and the fine arts, and that a proposal for the formation of a club will meet with the hearty co-operation of each one interested in the measure, the following outline is submitted for their consideration.

It is proposed to establish a club in London, under the title of the —, to which members of the architectural profession, professors of the

fine arts, civil engineers, and contractors shall be admissible, the last mentioned under certain limitations. The entrance fee to be five guineas, and the yearly subscription three guineas. Foreign artists and members of the above professions, as well as those belonging to the British Colonies, to be admitted as honorary members of the club without entrance fee, and on payment, merely during residence in England, of such amount of subscription as may hereafter be determined on. Members to be elected by ballot. A committee of general management to be elected, in whom will be vested the necessary powers for the formation of the club, the appointment and salaries of the secretary, treasurer, and other officers. In order to obviate some of the disadvantages under which non-resident members are described as labouring, and which it is one of the objects of the proposed club to remedy, it is suggested that a limited number of non-resident members, not belonging to foreign countries or the British Colonies, should be allowed the privilege of sleeping apartments at the club-house, on such conditions as the committee may specify. Such are a few of the leading features of the club which it is in contemplation to establish. The details of arrangement, &c., must necessarily be intrusted to a committee, which will be nominated as soon as a sufficient number of members have enrolled themselves to authorise the appointment of such committee, and furnish some guarantee for the vitality of the club in question.

It is believed practicable to obtain the co-operation of at least 1,000 members from the several professions to which this club has reference. This, at the proposed entrance fee of five guineas, would give 5,250*l.*, and the first year's subscription 3,150*l.*, making a sum of 8,400*l.*, a capital amply sufficient for all expenses; and it is confidently hoped, that in addition to the ordinary advantages of reading and writing-rooms which this club will possess in common with similar institutions, the funds will, in process of time, allow the formation of a valuable library of reference on all subjects relating to the arts and sciences.

This calculation, there is every reason to believe, is not based on any exaggerated expectations with respect to the success of the proposed scheme. There is no inconsiderable amount of wealth amongst the leaders of the different professions, and no want of that *esprit de corps*, without which no club or society can prosper or long exist. At the same time, the economical principles on which the club will be established and regulated will enable the junior members—those struggling onwards in pursuit of fame or fortune—to participate in an equal degree with their more fortunate brethren in all the social and professional advantages which the institution may afford.

#### NECESSITY FOR ATTENTION TO FORMS PRESCRIBED BY THE BUILDINGS ACT.

##### AWARD OF REFERENCE.

In the matter of a party wall between a house in Castle-street, Long Acre, and vacant ground at the corner of Endell-street, the owner of the house, Mr. Andrews, gave notice to the referees that it had been rendered ruinous and dangerous by the injudicious underpinning thereof, and by the operations of the building owner (of adjoining ground), Mr. Duncan, who, without the notice prescribed by the Act, "partly in mortar and partly in cement, in long and dangerous lengths, without proper care or shoring, had underpinned the said wall, and so far endangered the house as to cause a notice to be served from the overseers, under the 40th section of the said Act;" and he called for a survey of it, for the purpose of certifying the condition of such wall, and whether the whole or any part thereof ought to be repaired or pulled down and rebuilt, and that at the costs and charges of the building owner, Mr. Duncan.

The district surveyor reported that the said wall was ruinous and dangerous, and that it had been recently underpinned with brickwork throughout its whole length, and that such underpinning had not been done in a workmanlike and substantial manner, and had caused its ruinous and dangerous condition. Further, that it ought to be pulled down and rebuilt on its present site.